## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 have been amended, and new claims 4-15 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. No new matter has been added. The specification has been amended pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2). The Abstract has been amended to shorten the Abstract to required limits. A paragraph of the specification has been amended to recite the language deleted from the Abstract.

Examination of claims 1-15 on their merits is solicited.

Dated: January 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

Peter A. Veytsman

Registration No.: 45,920

**DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &** 

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorneys for Applicant